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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT
Approved For Release 2005/07/28 : CIA-RDP80-00840A003200360002-5

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

25X1

DATE DISTR. 23 February 1953

SUBJECT

Situation with Regard to Germany

International

NO OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO OF ENCLS
LISTED BELOWDATE OF
INFO.

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REPORT

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1. Foreign Minister Dr. Lothar Boltz on 10 November 1953 discussed the Soviet note before the staff of the East German Foreign Office. Dr. Boltz stated that the USSR, although in principle ready for Four-Power negotiations, did not favor such negotiations at the present moment. This attitude was the result of Adenauer's negotiations which had caused the Western answer to the preceding Soviet note to be modified in a negative sense. The Soviet Government, according to Boltz, must needs consider these negotiations as a provocative interference on the part of the Bonn Government. The true policy of the East German Government, on the other hand, had been made known to the Western Allies and the whole world by its letter to the Western Powers, demanding an end to all reparations and the cancellation of the German pre-war debts. Boltz furthermore stated, he was convinced that Adenauer's openly militaristic policy forced him to employ more Fascist generals with experience gained in the Russian campaign than he might have originally liked, but that this policy was rejected in Paris just as in Moscow. In a similar way all peace loving elements in the world were disgusted by the machinations of American war mongers. In this connection, Boltz mentioned the pact recently concluded between Franco-Spain and the USA and the expansion of the network of American military bases throughout the world. All these reasons induced the USSR to take a waiting position. The tensions around Trieste, the conflict between Israel and the Arab States, the growing hostility of French public opinion against the EDC Treaty together with the growing anti-Americanism in France were bound to worsen the position of all imperialists and war mongers. The USSR, according to Boltz, was interested in a total solution of all pending problems and, therefore, for the time being preferred to wait until the political situation in the world had clarified.
2. Georg Handke, State Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, supplemented Boltz' statements, pointing out the complete lack of imagination of American diplomacy and the continuous improvement of the economic situation of all countries of the Soviet Bloc, in particular of East Germany. At the end of the meeting the question was raised from the audience whether it would not endanger the inner peace of East Germany to have so many East German citizens travelling to West Germany where they might come into touch with Western agents. Handke is said to have answered that question in the effect.

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that the East German Government welcomed the fact that many people from East Germany travelled to West Germany where they had an opportunity of realizing the growing superiority of the East German system over the political system and the living conditions in the West. Handke furthermore stated that the danger of being recruited by Western agents continued to exist anyhow, independent of the freedom of travel to the West. This danger was particularly acute in West Berlin; however, this plague-spot may be removed sooner than most people were aware. The SSD was closely watching all elements liable to be recruited by Western agents so there was no need to restrict interzonal traffic.

25X1 3. As to Handke's position, [REDACTED] he has been given the mission to shadow Lothar Bolz. His appointment to the post of State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry had been made without Semenov's knowledge.

25X1 1. [REDACTED] Comment.

It is standard procedure in the Communist system to shadow a minister by his deputy. However, there are no indications that Bolz is not trusted by the SED.

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